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STAR OF MYSORE

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E-mail: voice@starofmysore.com
ad@starofmysore.com

MYSURU Monday 17th May 2021
City Offices: K.R. Circle Ph: 2431774
Devaraja Urs Road Ph: 2428695
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JSS Hospital ready to fight Corona third wave: Suttur Seer

- Work on installing liquid oxygen unit to start soon
- Dedicated team of doctors ready to treat patients

Mysuru, May 17 (RKB&SSV)- JSS Multi-Speciality Hospital is fully geared up to take on the third wave of Coronavirus and the Hospital has upgraded its facilities to treat patients, declared Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji.

He was speaking to the media after visiting the COVID Care Centre in the Hospital premises. The Seer also talked to people and attendants outside the Centre, here this morning.

When the Seer asked a battery of top doctors about the preparedness to face third wave of COVID-19 pandemic, the latter said in unison "Yes, we are totally ready with all medical facilities to face the third wave and give good treatment to patients."

(See JSS on page 6)

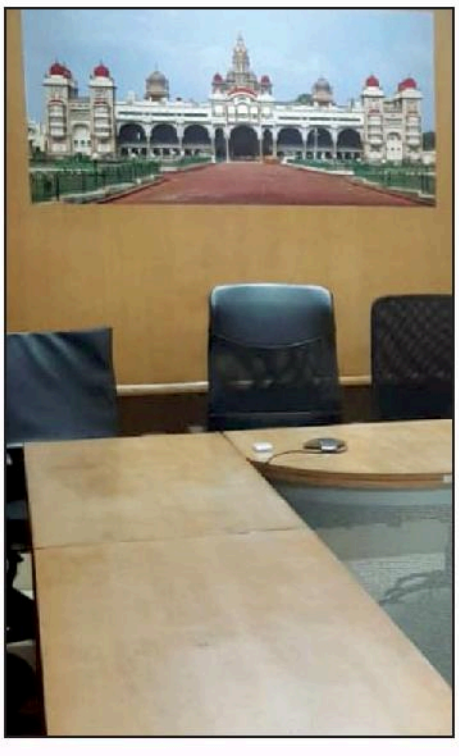
Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji addressing presspersons at JSS Hospital this morning as (from left) JSS Mahavidyapeetha Executive Secretary Dr. C.G. Betsurmath, JSS Medical College Principal Dr. H. Basavanagoudappa, Hospital Director Dr. Col. M. Dayanand, JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research Vice-Chancellor Dr. Surinder Singh, Chief Engineer Vijay Dennur, JSS Mahavidyapeetha Secretary S.P. Manjunath and Deputy Medical Superintendent Dr. Naveen look on.

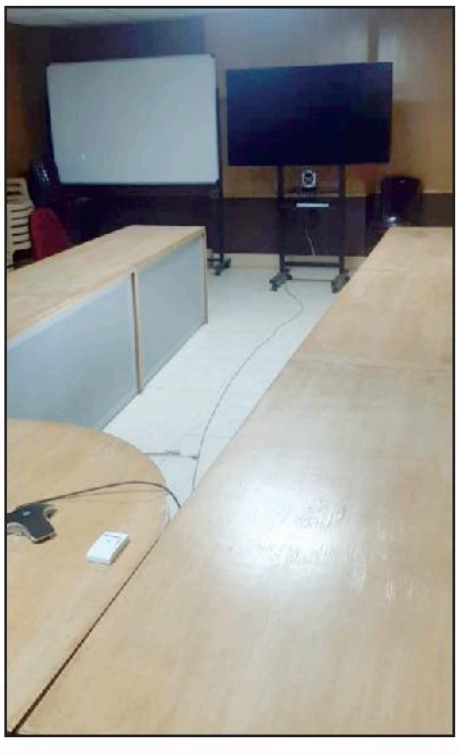
Mysuru DC's Office gears up for video-conference with PM tomorrow

Mysuru, May 17 (RK&DM)- The Deputy Commissioner's Office in city has geared up for the all-important video-conference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on COVID-19 situation in the district scheduled to take place at 11 am tomorrow.

The KSWAN (Karnataka State Wide Area Network) Video-Conference Hall in the first floor of the DC's Office has been spruced up for tomorrow's video-conference. Apart from Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri, District Minister S.T. Somashekar and all District-level Officers on COVID duty will take part in the video-conference. In case the District Minister is not in the headquarters (Mysuru), he can join the virtual conference from the place he is.

(See DC OFFICE on page 6)





STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Monday 17th May 2021

PIL in SC seeking directions to use PM Cares Fund for COVID vaccines, O2 plants

Apex Court urged to direct State Governments to set up electric and other crematoriums in all cities and improve the condition of existing electric crematoriums

New Delhi, May 17 (UNI) - A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking directions to utilise PM Cares Fund for immediate procurement of COVID vaccines and install oxygen plants and other essential equipment in the 738 District Hospitals across the country amid the virulent second wave of COVID-19.

Supreme Court Counsel Advocate Viplav Sharma knocked the doors of the Apex Court to direct the Union Secretary and all Chief Secretaries of States to ask the Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assemblies to spend their funds in a disciplined manner with full transparency.

The plea also prayed for the directions to the Centre and State Governments to ensure that all the Private/ Charitable Hospitals within their respective jurisdiction/administration procure, install and commission facilities to provide medical oxygen to their patients.

Challenging the April 24 notification issued by the Centre to the extent it capped the exemption from import duty granted to medical equipment, for three months, the PIL pointed out the stipulated period is too short.

The PIL further urged the Court to direct State Governments to set up electric and other crematoriums in all cities and also maintain and improve the condition of existing electric crematoriums.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

EMBRACE WARP SPEED: ***The only way out of the COVID pandemic is by vaccinating. Social distancing, masking and a reasonable degree of hand hygiene will help, primarily in buying time for the vaccine to be given to the vast majority of Indians. But as with other infectious diseases, vaccination is the only sure route to health security. The present rate of vaccination is too slow. To make matters worse, the Government's policy pronouncements on the process ahead have sown confusion. The slow rate and confusion will be disastrous for India and the world at large. For the millions who will get COVID. For those Indians with other medical conditions who cannot receive timely treatment in dangerously stretched healthcare facilities. It could also be disastrous for those outside India who could be exposed to more rapidly transmitting and fatal forms of the virus that could incubate and spread from our shores. India has had success with vaccination programmes in the past, but it is hard to escape the conclusion that given our governance and the size of our population it will be years before 80% of our population are vaccinated — if we assume 80% is the threshold that might induce herd immunity. India's dedicated and accelerated smallpox vaccination programme began with the National Smallpox Eradication effort. It was supposed to be completed in three years. It took from 1962 to 1977 to eradicate smallpox. The polio campaign began in earnest in 1993-94, with Kerala and Tamil Nadu taking the lead. Polio was finally eradicated in India in 2011-12. In both cases, it took about 15 years to win the fight.***

How long will it take to fully vaccinate 80% of 1.4 billion, that is, 1.12 billion Indians? That will require 2.24 billion jabs (two jabs per person). By May 11, India had given 170 million jabs in total including those who received the second jab. The vaccination drive began four months ago, so about 42 million jabs were administered per month. At that rate, it will take 50 months to give everyone two jabs (add in a month or two to deal with the increase in population over 4 years). Four years is too long for India to fully vaccinate. In those years, mutations will multiply. It is time to treat vaccination as no other public policy challenge India has ever faced. What we need is not the Prime Minister, who has no expertise, but rather a public health czar to head a Super Task Force with only one mandate: Vaccinate, vaccinate, vaccinate.

— Kanti Bajpai in The Times of India

NEWS SPARKLERS

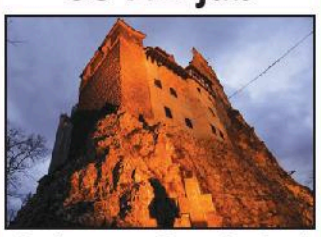
Loophole allows student to eat for free at KFC

Beijing: A 23-year-old university student was recently sentenced to two and a half years in prison for swindling KFC of about 31,000 dollars in fast food, by taking advantage of an ordering loophole.

The student, first discovered the glitch in 2018 and not only continued to use it to his benefit for the next six months, but he also shared it with friends and even profited financially from it. The Jiangsu-based student accidentally realized that he could order free food by paying for it using coupons in the official KFC app and then immediately asking for a refund of the coupons using the company's WeChat account. It was any KFC's fan dream come true, all the fried chicken you could eat, totally free.

The student reportedly started reselling the coupons online for profit and shared his findings about the app flaws with his college mates. From April to October, the students caused a total loss of over 200,000 yuan (31,000 dollars) in economic losses to the company.

Dracula's castle offers visitors COVID jab



Bucharest: Bran Castle is known as the inspiration for the vampire's home in Bram Stoker's novel Dracula. But visitors during the COVID-19 pandemic are more likely to leave with puncture marks in their arms than their necks this month. Like most of the world's tourist attractions, the castle in Romania's Carpathian mountains seen a drop in the number of tourists this year.

Like most of the world's tourist attractions, the castle in Romania's Carpathian mountains seen a drop in the number of tourists this year. So instead, it has become a COVID-19 vaccination centre. Medical workers with bloody fang stickers on their scrubs are offering free shots every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday this month. Also, vaccine recipients also get free entry to the castle's exhibit of 52 medieval torture tools.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Ear bud is a misnomer. It is a Q-tip. It is useful for applying medications like creams and ointments into nostrils or ear canal entrance. It should never be used as a wax remover, as the tip of the bud can push the wax deep inside than getting it out.

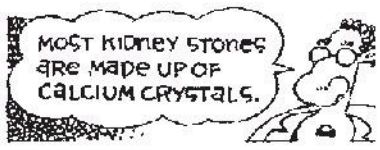
By Dr. Dathathri H. A. - ENT, Head & Neck Surgeon & Cochlear Implant Surgeon

COLUMBIA ASIA

COLUMBIA ASIA HOSPITAL - MYSORE

(A unit of Manipal Hospitals)

**** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature***



One in 10 people will get kidney stones, with A 70 to 80 percent recurrence rate. Kidney stone pain level has been compared with childbirth. To prevent kidney stones make sure your urine is a light yellow tint. Get adequate magnesium, along with calcium (from food). Avoid sugar and soda.

COVID-19 UPDATE - MYSURU

DATES	MAY 15	MAY 16
Day's Positive Cases	2,489	1,811
Total Positive Cases	1,10,316	1,12,127
Day's Discharges	2,338	2,228
Total Discharges	94,053	96,281
Day's Deaths	15	8
Total Deaths	1,397	1,405
Total Active Cases	14,866	14,441

NOTE: Figures as per Government Media Bulletin

Pt. Rajeev Taranath, Dr. Kasturirangan selected for Basavashri Award

Chitradurga, May 17- Sarod Maestro Pandit Rajeev Taranath of Mysuru and renowned Space Scientist Dr. K. Kasturirangan have been selected for the prestigious Basavashri Award, given by Chitradurga's Murugha Mutt. The award carries a cash prize of Rs.5 lakh and a citation.

Pt. Rajeev Taranath Dr. Kasturirangan

Announcing this here on Friday, Murugha Mutt Seer Sri Shivamurthy Murugha Swamiji said that Pandit Rajeev Taranath has been selected for the award for the year 2019 and Dr. Kasturirangan for the year 2020.

The award will be conferred on the two renowned personalities after COVID crisis declines, he added.

Pt. Taranath is a renowned Sarod Maestro, who has achieved big in Hindustani music through sheer excellence. Dr. Kasturirangan headed the country's premier Space Agency Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for more than nine years and also served as a Member of the Planning Commission.

REALLY...?

- ***A spark of static electricity can measure up to 3,000 volts.***
- ***The average taser emits 50,000 volts.***

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Employee: *Boss, I have got married. Can I get a pay rise?*

Boss: *We do not compensate for the accidents that happen outside of the work place !!*

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 73.23
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 103.22
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 19.94
1 Euro	= Rs. 88.89

VOICE OF THE READER

RT-PCR: Suggestions to District Administration

Sir,

The targeted testing [(Influenza-like illness or ILI) and (Severe Acute Respiratory Infections or SARI)] coupled with lockdown, introducing 'COVID Mitras' for proper triaging, providing home isolation kit, telemedicine, streamlining the oxygen supply, centralised bed allotment through COVID War Rooms, increasing ventilator beds, stepped up vaccination, are some of the best decisions that the District Administration has taken to save lives as well as to provide beds and oxygen, ICU support to needy patients.

However, over a period of time, targeted testing and decreased testing numbers may not be sustainable and may contribute to a delay in flattening the curve or may take longer than expected to bring down the positive rate in the district.

There are hundreds of asymptomatic people, who could be a potential source to ILI and SARI patients. Without being tested, asymptomatic people may roam around and may become super spreaders and may add to the continued morbidity and mortality of COVID-19.

Therefore, it is logical to consider to have increased testing of asymptomatic people by RT-PCR (RTPCR is the only technique that can detect COVID-19 in asymptomatic stage while CT scan can diagnose in mild to moderate symptomatic stage and requires payment!), segregate them and may strictly guide them for home isolation after triaging through COVID Mitras.

This way, testing number increases, contact tracing, isolation also increases, the positive rate may come down while needy patients get bed, oxygen or ICU treatment. This strategy, together with enforcing COVID-19 appropriate behaviour, may break the transmission chain and bring down positive cases in Mysuru district.

—Dr. P.V. Ravindra
Mysuru
17.5.2021

Obituary

M.A. Abdul Rahman

Mysuru, May 17- M.A. Abdul

Rahman (72), a resident of Rajivnagar, passed away this morning in city following brief illness. He leaves behind his wife, three children and a host of relatives and friends. Namaz-e-Janaza and burial took place at the Muslim Burial Grounds here today.

T. Sunandamma

T. Sunandamma (80), wife of late D. Krishnaiah and a resident of Devaraja Mohalla, passed away yesterday in city. She leaves behind four sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were held at foot of Chamundi Hill last evening.

Basappa

Basappa (75), a resident of K.G. Koppal, passed away yesterday. He leaves behind two sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were held at K.G. Koppal Burial Grounds today.

Haji Syed Habib

Haji Syed Habib (72), a resident of N.R. Mohalla, passed away yesterday. He leaves behind four daughters, one son and a host of relatives and friends. Namaz-e-Janaza and burial took place at Muslim Burial Grounds this morning.

H.K. Shivanna

H.K. Shivanna (51), a realtor and a resident of Huyilalu village, Yelwal, passed away yesterday following brief illness. He leaves behind his wife Manila, daughters Vedavathi and Shwetha, son Puneet Kumar and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were held at Huyilalu yesterday.

A.G.V.N. Iyengar

A.G. Venkatanarasimha Iyengar (92), a resident of Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, passed away yesterday following a heart attack. He leaves behind his wife, three sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at Chirashanthidhama in Gokulam this noon.

City researchers develop anti-COVID oral drug

Dr. B.H. Manjunath *Dr. Basappa* *Prof. P.A. Mahesh*

Mysuru, May 17 (BCT)- In a major breakthrough that can add as a powerful ammunition to the fight against COVID, a Mysuru-based drug development company has discovered a new drug against human anti-SARS-CoV-2 (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2).

SARS-CoV-2 viral multiplication within the cell mainly depends on RdRp, a key enzyme that is involved in the RNA synthesis, the core material in the virus. City-based DRM Innovations has developed an entirely new drug to kill the SARS-CoV-2 virus using Artificial Intelligence.

Dr. B.H. Manjunath, Director, DRM Innovations Pvt Ltd, who led the innovation said, "National Institute of Virology, Pune, a leading Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) affiliate, has conducted studies and confirmed that these new drugs had good inhibitory effects in killing the virus in cell based systems. Additional studies provided preliminary information that the drugs had no toxicity in cell based systems and in animals." Further, animal studies in JSS Pharmacy College, Mysuru, observed that the drug can be given orally and advanced software-based analysis identifies these drugs to be virocidal and has drug and dosage characteristics similar to Remdesivir.

Effective against virus mutations too

All viruses — including SARS-CoV-2 — evolve over time and when a virus is widely circulating in a population and causing many infections, the likelihood of the virus mutating increases. The more opportunities a virus has to spread, the more it replicates — and the more opportunities it has to undergo changes.

When a virus replicates or makes copies of itself it sometimes changes a little bit, which is normal for a virus. These changes are called mutations. A virus with one or more new mutations is referred to as a variant of the original virus. This particular drug is effective even if the COVID virus undergoes mutations as the mutations occur mostly in the membrane protein, while the drugs target the RdRp directly.

"The key advantages are that these drugs can be given orally and has potential to cross the blood brain barrier since many COVID patients suffer from neurological problems and Remdesivir does not cross the blood brain barrier," Dr. Manjunath added.

Clinical use

DRM Innovations is looking for funding from Government of India, drug companies and other philanthropists to take this innovation into clinical use for the benefit of the country and the world that has been crippled by the pandemic. Once an effective oral drug is available, COVID-19 will join the ranks of H1N1 influenza (swine flu), which caused disruptions in 2011, but now is an easily treatable disease, Dr. Manjunath said.

The team of researchers include Dr. Basappa, Chairman, Laboratory of Chemical Biology, Department of Studies in Organic Chemistry, University of Mysore, Dr. P.A. Mahesh, Professor, Department of Respiratory Medicine, JSS Medical College and Hospital, JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research, Dr. Priya Abraham, Dr. Pragya Jadhav and Dr. Anitha Shete, National Institute of Virology, Pune, Dr. Pramod Kumar, Principal, JSS Pharmacy College and Saravanan Babu, JSS Pharmacy Research Head.

Dr. Manjunath informed that the US pharmaceutical giant, Johnson and Johnson, has evinced keen interest in extending co-operation to take the initiative to the next level, and had promised to join when the drug goes for the second stage of human clinical trials. "We would be able to develop and release the drug for the fight against COVID-19 within one or two months after getting necessary clearance for conducting the first phase of the human trials," he added.

Decentralised Triage Centres in Mysuru

Bengaluru, May 17 (UNI)- With the second wave of COVID-19 causing havoc, the State Government has decided to form Decentralised Triage Centres (DTCs) in urban areas to effectively manage existing cases.

The State Government has issued a directive to manage the spread of the virus at the Ward-level. Likewise, measures are being taken to curb the virus in line with Mumbai and Chennai.

These DTCs will come up in Mysuru, Belagavi, Ballari, Kalaburagi, Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Davanagere, Vijayapura, Shivamogga and Tumakuru Corporation limits, where cases are surging. It has been noticed that many patients who do not require immediate hospitalisation get admitted to hospital, due to which those who need hospitalisation find it difficult to get a bed.

In order to avoid this, a triaging process is required. Physical triage can either be done in Primary Health Centres, Government Hospitals, Medical College Hospitals, or at the doorstep of the patient. The number of Triaging Centres depends on the number of cases getting added each day. Three or four DTCs may be needed in a city or town, in addition to triage centres functioning in District Hospitals, Medical College Hospitals and COVID Care Centres.

In the Corporation Ward level, officials in each Ward must work with Residents Welfare Association (RWAs), organisations, students, and volunteers and set up a Ward Control Room, Triage Centre and micro COVID Care Centre to respond quickly to the concerns of COVID-19 patients.

Based on triaging, patients are categorised into: require hospitalisation, need to be sent to CCC, need home isolation, already hospitalised or unresponsive. If the patient is recommended home isolation, then a health worker pays a visit on the first, fifth and tenth day from the onset of symptoms. If the health worker feels the patient's condition is not suitable for home isolation and medical care is necessary, he or she will speak to the doctor at the War Room and take guidance.

Decentralisation of Zonal War Rooms can help address every need of the patients. This will also help bring down the rising cases. The discharge of a patient under home isolation can only be done after the visit of the health worker on the tenth day, by following the discharge protocol laid down by the Health Department.

COVID-19 HELPLINE

MYSURU

0821-2424111
0821-2957811
0821-2957711

For victim's funeral contact MCC

94498-41195
94498-41196
0821-2418800

MANDYA

District War Room
08232-229393
08232-223033

Mandya Taluk
08232-224248

Maddur Taluk
08232-232010

Malavalli Taluk
08231-242277

Srirangapatna Taluk
08236-252029

Pandavapura Taluk
08236-255128

Nagamangala Taluk
08234-285045

K.R. Pet Taluk
08230-262227

KODAGU

COVID Hospital
08272-220606

District Helpline
08272-221077

Madikeri
08272-228396

Virajpet / Ponnampet
08274-256328

Somwarpet / Kushalnagar
08276-282045

CH'NAGAR

District Helpline
08226-223160
08226-1077

Kollegal Taluk
08224-252046

Gundlupet Taluk
08229-222225

Yelandur Taluk
08226-240029

Hanur Taluk Control Room
08224-268032

Battling black fungus: Govt. to form expert panel

Acute shortage of Liposomal Amphotericin B — anti-fungal medication used to treat infection

Bengaluru, May 17 (UNI)- Karnataka Health Minister Dr. K. Sudhakar has said yesterday that it has been decided to start treatment for "black fungus" at Bowring Hospital in Bengaluru on a pilot basis, and later extend the treatment to Medical Colleges and District Hospitals.

Dr. Sudhakar

Noting that the treatment for black fungus infection is a bit costly, the Minister said he would discuss with Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa regarding free treatment as he has also said a committee of experts would be set up to prepare a roadmap for treatment of those infected and how to curb the infection.

"Mucormycosis or black fungus is commonly seen among those who have less immunity or because of use of steroids. Those who have diabetes and are infected by COVID 10-15 days after they take steroids, the infection begins through the nose and spreads to the eyes and its parts like optic nerves and optic chiasm," Dr. Sudhakar said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said there is danger of losing vision because of this and if timely treatment is not taken there are chances of death. "After the infection was noticed in Maharashtra, we held discussions with eye specialists and experts (ophthalmologists) and from Monday, May 17, at Bowring Hospital, we are starting treatment for it," he said adding "We are starting on a pilot basis, and will later continue in all Medical Colleges and some District Hospitals," he said.

Minister for free treatment

Noting that Liposomal Amphotericin B, the drug for black fungus infection is a bit costly, the Minister said a patient would require seven weeks of continued treatment to be cured and treatment may cost Rs. 2 lakh to 3 lakh per person. "I will discuss with the Chief Minister and will suggest free treatment. Ultimately, he will decide," the Minister said adding that those with black fungus issues should immediately consult doctors.

The Centre is rationing the Amphotericin B drug and would be distributed to the State also, Dr. Sudhakar said adding that it was decided at the COVID Task Force Meeting on Saturday to request the Centre to provide 20,000 vials of the drug. He said he was in constant touch with Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers D.V. Sadananda Gowda and his Ministry in this regard and would also talk to the Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan.

"There is no need for people to worry, but those with diabetes or other secondary infections, those who are immuno-compromised, with TB, HIV, cancer, with kidney or any other organ transplant, I advise all of them to exercise caution and not to use steroids without the doctor's consent," he said. Also, he advised doctors to exercise caution while administering steroids to such patients.

Committee to be formed

In response to a question, the Minister said it was difficult for now to say exactly as to how many are affected by black fungus or died of it, as people with such issues may have gone to private eye doctors. He said he would be constituting a committee consisting of eye specialists (ophthalmologist), endocrinologists, diabetologists on how to bring black fungus infections under control and how to treat patients with such infections.

Meanwhile, Dr. Sudhakar said that while the positivity rate was declining in Bengaluru, it was increasing in other districts and in rural areas. "One of the reasons for this is reverse migration before the lockdown," he said.

Also, the Minister cautioned the people about dengue caused due to mosquito bite, especially during day time. About 15,000-20,000 people get infected with dengue every year in the State, he said while asking people to take preventive measures like cleanliness particularly with the onset of monsoon in days.

Cop on duty injured as speeding car rams into check-post kiosk

Hunsur, May 17 (KK&KS)- A Head Constable, who was manning the kiosk at Bilikere check-post suffered fracture on his leg besides sustaining severe injuries on his head, hands and legs, when a speeding car reportedly rammed into the temporary kiosk on Saturday. The injured Cop is Lakshman, attached to Bilikere Police Station.

Lakshman, along with Constable Sanju and Praveen, a Home Guard were checking vehicles at the Hunsur-Bilikere-K.R. Nagar junction check-post, when the speeding car (KA-09-MF-1941), driven by Siddanaika, a wholesale medical supply dealer, coming from Madikeri side rammed into the kiosk after Siddanaika lost control of the car.

Due to the impact of the accident, Lakshman was thrown away to about 10mts distance resulting in him suffering a fracture on his leg besides getting injured seriously. Constable Sanju and Home Guard Praveen jumped away to safety. Lakshman has been admitted to a hospital in Mysuru.

Bilikere Police, who rushed to the spot, took Siddanaika into custody, seized the car and have registered a case.

Union Minister bats for extension of lockdown

Bengaluru, May 17 (KMS&DM)- As COVID-19 continues to cause havoc across the State, Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers **D.V. Sadanandagowda** has batted for extension of lockdown for a couple of weeks.

Speaking to presspersons after launching a COVID Care Centre at Kempegowda Community Hall in Nandini Layout here yesterday, Sadanandagowda, who is also a former Karnataka Chief Minister, pointed out that COVID caseload has come down significantly in big cities like Mumbai and Delhi with the enforcement of lockdown. As such, the Government should seriously think about extending the lockdown, which ends on May 24.

Maintaining that it is the intention of the Government to vaccinate everyone in the State, the Union Minister said that the Government has taken many measures in this regard. Noting that the drive for vaccinating people in the age group of 18 to 44 years has received a temporary setback because of the sudden rush due to the second wave of the deadly pandemic, he said that the Government is in constant touch with COVID and black fungus drug manufacturers.

Pointing out that the manufacturers have been appealed to enhance production, he contended that the Government is doing what all it can to ensure that there is no shortage of vital drugs. He appealed the public to co-operate with the Government in this trying times.

Cyclone TAUKTAE effect in Kodagu

Water flows above danger mark in many bridges

Bethri Bridge just 1-ft above water; main part of Mapillethodu Bridge caves in

Madikeri, May 17 (PS&BCT)- Intermittent rains have been lashing Kodagu District since the last three days owing to cyclone Tauktae. While it rained heavily on Saturday showing signs of continued spell for the next three to four days, the intensity petered out last evening and today there is a break.

Many rivers are flowing in full spate and the main Bethri Bridge at Bethri village that links Madikeri and Virajpet is flowing near the danger mark. If rains continue, there is a threat of the bridge submerging. Local residents said that the bridge is just one feet above the water level.

The Kadanoor Bridge is also near-submersion and River Cauvery is flowing under the bridge in full force as in many regions, the rain that started on Friday night continued till Sunday morning. The small bridge at Balamuri village connecting Napoklu-Bethu-Balamuri is about to be submerged near Yethukadavu. A new bridge has, however, been built here at a cost of Rs. 45 lakh.

Interestingly, in 2011, Bollywood actress **Hema Malini** had released Rs. 20 lakh to build the bridge as she was impressed by the beauty of the place and also realised the need for building a new bridge. Though the money was released in 2011, the bridge was inaugurated only in 2018.

BOUNTIFUL RAIN

Madikeri, Bhagamandala, Talacauvery, Virajpet, Napoklu, Karike, Kakkabbe, Srimangala, Kutta, Murnad, Shettigeri, Kunda and Gonikoppal, Chembebellur, Nadikeri, Besagoor, Devanageri, Balele, Karmad, Nittoor, Thithimathi, Devamachhi, Ammathi, Ontiyangadi, Bittangala, Arji, Makutta, Perumbadi, Betoli and Heggala experienced bountiful rainfall. With the continuous rainfall, water level in streams and rivulets too has increased.

The District Administration has directed those residing on the banks of the river at Karadigodu and Guhya to move to safer locations. While some residents have moved to safe places, some are waiting for the District Administration to set up relief centres for them to move. This is an annual affair as the residents have refused to move from the river banks even when the administration has provided them land in other places.

Bethri Bridge

Mapillethod Bridge

LACK OF CONNECTIVITY

Two houses in Suntikoppa Gram Panchayat have been damaged. Trees have been uprooted in various locations and the power supply was snapped in some villages. While the personnel from Chamundeshwari Electricity Company (CESC) have formed teams to restore many power lines that have snapped due to tree fall, several areas witnessed internet connectivity problems.

Those working from home had to face this problem and lack of support from the service providers due to lockdown, worsened the scenario. At several places including Gonikoppal and Ponnampet, the main feeder line was under repairs and the towns faced frequent disconnections.

BRIDGE CAVES IN

Virajpet taluk received 126.8 mm rainfall till Sunday morning. And the Virajpet Town Panchayat will open a relief centre at Government Model Primary School in Chikpet. The main part of Mapillethodu Bridge on Ponnampet-Srimangala-Kutta inter-State Highway caved in due to an increase in the flow of water. The bridge caved in a portion where the concrete and mud joined.

The bridge work was being carried out for the past one year and was recently completed. While the engineers said that heavy rain and gushing of water caused the damage, local villagers allege that the important connecting bridge was not built as per standard and that is the reason why it caved in so soon.

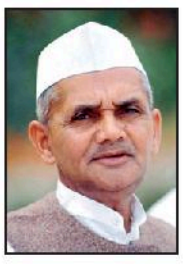
The Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre has released a forecast yesterday that scattered to fairly widespread very light to moderate rains with isolated heavy rains associated with thunderstorms likely over Chikkamagalur, Kodagu, Shivamogga and Hassan districts. Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Uttara Kannada, Hassan, Kodagu, Chikkamagalur and Shivamogga districts have been given Yellow alert by India Meteorological Department.

According to the rainfall data at Krishi Vigyan Kendra Gonikoppal, 2.46 inches (62 mm) rain has been recorded and the total rainfall in 2021 till date is 10.43 inches (265 mm). Athur Farm recorded 3.26 inches (83 mm).

A portion of Balamuri-Parane Road near Napoklu has caved in following rains.

Picture right: ***The old and new bridge connecting Napoklu with Balamuri.***

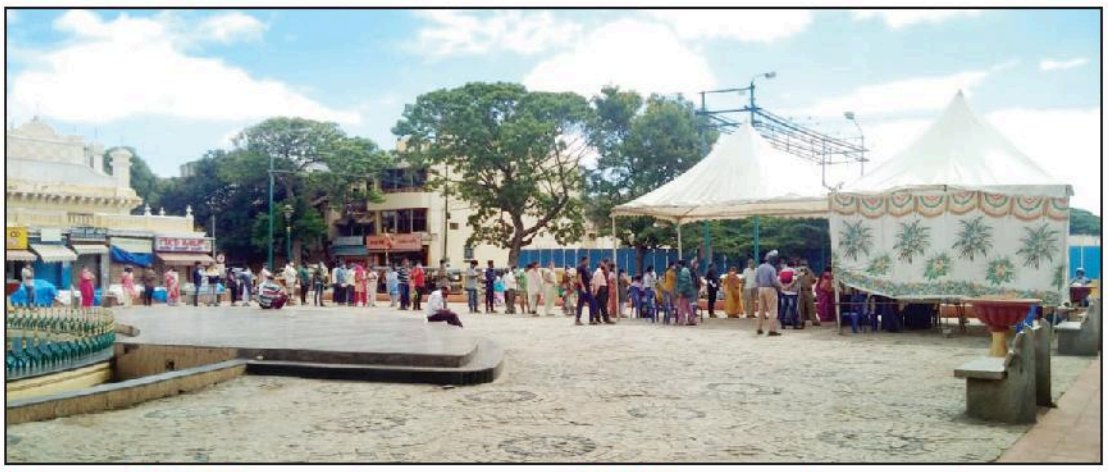
In 1955, Lal Bahadur Shastri inaugurated Bethri Bridge



While there are other routes to connect Virajpet and Madikeri, the road via Bethri Bridge, built 66 years ago, provides the shortest travel distance. The foundation stone for Bethri Bridge was laid on March 29, 1953 by Colonel O.S. Bedi, IPS, the then Chief Commissioner of Coorg. It was inaugurated by the then Union Minister for Transport and Railways Lal Bahadur Shastri on May 29, 1955. Coorg was a 'C' State at that time.

According to Kiggal G. Hareesh, a local resident, the bridge is one of the oldest bridges constructed after independence. When Lal Bahadur Shastri was in Coorg for the inauguration of bridge, he had visited the ancestral house of Kambiranda family and had a cup of coffee with snacks. Apparanda Thimmaiah's Mercedes Benz car was the first vehicle to move along the bridge after the inauguration.

COVID: Daily infections see a drop, along with testing numbers



From 7,500, testing cut to 3,500; people continue to queue-up RT-PCR testing centres

Mysuru, May 17 (MTY&BCT)- While Mysuru's daily COVID-19 data bulletin over the past couple of days shows that the number of fresh cases has been falling, experts say that the number of fresh cases are falling because there has been a drastic fall in the number of RT-PCR (Reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction) and RAT (Rapid Antigen Test) tests conducted.

Experts say that the curve will flatten only if the positivity rate is low while testing is high. An analysis of daily testing and infection data suggests that the recent drop in infections is largely due to a decline in testing. The number of RT-PCR tests conducted has decreased over the past few days.

While over 6,500 to 7,500 per day test targets were given to Mysuru in the first week of April, now the tests stand at 3,000 to 3,500 per day. In Mysuru city alone, there were 23 test centres including Primary Health Centres and now they have been reduced to just 10 centres with most of the test centres being converted into COVID Mitras. As a result, the number of positive cases being reported had also fallen.

While shortage of testing kits is one reason for the drop in testing, officials say that they have been asked by the State Government to follow syndromic approach to admit COVID-19 patients — Syndromic management involves clinical decision making based on a patient's symptoms and signs being manifested.

Officials justify move

"Testing has been reduced as infections have increased and there is no point in testing when the lab results come after two or three days. By the time the results come, the persons who have symptoms would have spread the virus to many others. So we are directly treating the symptomatic persons at COVID Mitras. Whoever has symptoms must come to COVID Mitras established all over the city and we will analyse the disease and begin treatment. This is the whole purpose of COVID Mitra," a Health Department official told *Star of Mysore.*

Testing has even been reduced in Taluk and Hobli level too. Experts, however, says that the District should increase the number of daily tests, instead of reducing them. According to them, this will lead to an increasing number of undetected cases.

"The administration will have to continue testing well. It is very important to know how the pandemic is turning. Also, it will help put public health measures in place and take up measures to reduce mortality or infections in the area," they suggest. To confirm flattening of the curve, a drop in the number of daily cases should be observed even while the daily number of RT-PCR tests is sustained at a certain level.

While limited testing is being conducted at places like Chikka Gadiyara where 150 to 200 tests are being conducted daily, other places including private hospitals are testing only 100. Token system is being followed and people are being tested on first-come-first-serve basis.

The earlier rule said that more and more random testing have to be conducted in places where there are large crowds. Besides, all contacts of positive patients, ILI and SARI cases had to be mandatorily tested. This rule has now been given a go-by.

JSS Hospital ready to fight third wave

Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji taking second dose of COVID vaccination at JSS Multi-Speciality Hospital this morning. Picture right shows the Swamiji talking to attendants outside the COVID Care Centre in the Hospital premises.

(Continued from page 1)

This affirmative reply by doctors boosted the morale of the Seer and declared that the JSS Hospital is ready to fight out Corona third wave effectively and efficiently.

The Seer said they are ready to spare the beds for the Government to treat COVID patients if the latter promises to ensure the supply of oxygen. Work on installing 5,000 Kilo Litre Liquid Oxygen Tank will start soon. Once it is ready, it will produce 500 litres of oxygen every minute. Then it can be supplied to additional 500 to 600 beds, he added.

Word of caution

The Swamiji gave a word to caution to citizens, who were showing negligence to the current second wave, and asked them to follow the Government guidelines not only to protect themselves but also of their families.

The Hospital was extending all co-operation to the Government to deal with the situation, he said.

Later, the Seer interacted with patients and their attendants waiting outside the COVID Care Centre and gave assurance that nothing will happen to them and their dear ones. The Seer promised good treatment from the hospital.

The COVID Care Centre has a total of 300 beds spread in six wards. As many as 200 staff including 60 doctors and 120 nurses and other medical personnel work in three shifts to take care of patients.

JSS Hospital Director Col. Dr. M. Dayanand, JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research Pro-Chancellor Dr. B.Suresh, Vice-Chancellor Dr. Dr. Surinder Singh, JSS Medical Superintendent Dr. Guruswamy, Deputy Medical Superintendent Dr. Naveen, JSS Medical College Principal Dr. H. Basavanagoudappa, JSS Mahavidyapeetha Secretary S.P. Manjunath, Executive Secretary Dr. C.G. Betsurmath and others were present.

Earlier, the Seer took the second dose of vaccination.

PM to interact with DCs of 17 districts

Bengaluru, May 17 (KMS&DM)- With Karnataka turning out into one of the most COVID-affected States, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with Deputy Commissioners (DCs) of 17 hotspot districts of the State tomorrow (May18) on the present situation.

The Prime Minister will interact with DCs of Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Uttara Kannada, Hassan, Ballari, Mysuru, Tumakuru, Kolar, Kodagu, Udupi, Shivamogga, Dharwad, Dakshina Kannada, Raichur, Kalaburagi, Mandya and Chikkaballapur districts at 11 am tomorrow through a video-conference.

Chief Minister B.S.Yediyurappa, Deputy CM Dr. C.N. Aswathnarayan, Revenue Minister R. Ashok, Home Minister S.R. Bommai and Health Minister Dr. K. Sudhakar will be present during the PM's video-conference.

Mysuru DC's Office gears up

(Continued from page 1)

The entire Video-Conference Hall has been readied and all the electronic equipment were checked and tested today for their functioning.

Mysuru DC is one among the Deputy Commissioners of 17 COVID high caseload districts of the State with whom the Prime Minister will interact tomorrow.

CM to hold video-conference this evening

As a prelude to Prime Minister Modi's interaction tomorrow, Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa will be holding a virtual meeting with the Deputy Commissioners of all the 17 districts, including Mysuru DC, at 4.30 this evening to take stock of the latest COVID-19 situation in their respective districts.

In Mysuru, the virtual meeting will take place at the DC's Office which will be attended by DC Rohini Sindhuri, ZP CEO A.M. Yogesh, SP C.B. Ryshyanth, DHO Dr. T. Amarnath, District Surgeon Dr. Rajeshwari and other top officials.

20 black fungus cases in Karnataka

Bangalore, May 17 (UNI)- As many as 20 black fungus cases were detected among the recently recovered COVID-19 patients in the State on Sunday.

According to official sources, three black fungus cases were detected in Bagalkot, one in Vijayapura district, five in Raichur and one in Bidar district.

Seal down villages reporting high

number of Corona positive cases: Dr. Yathindra

Mysuru, May 17 (MTY& SSV)- Varuna MLA Dr. Yathindra Siddharamaiah has asked Taluk Administration to seal down those villages which are reporting high number of Corona positive cases in Mysuru Taluk. He was speaking after distributing medicine kits donated by Rakesh Papanna, a youth Congress leader, at Mini Vidhana Soudha here yesterday.

Dr. Yathindra said the number of Corona positive cases in rural areas has increased a lot when compared to last year's first wave of COVID-19 pandemic. There is an emergent need to create awareness among the people of rural areas to take all health precautions.

Steps must be taken to check the surge by advising people to take Covid test in case of symptoms. He said it was learnt that two villages in his Constituency have been sealed down in the wake of spike in positive cases.

A similar step must be taken if more number of cases were reported from other villages. But the taluk administration must ensure supply of medicines to infected persons and essential commodities to other villagers due to blocking of the entire village to the outside world. Staff from taluk administration and Health must be put on the job of distributing the necessary items to the affected persons, he added.

Tahsildar Rakshith said medicines and essential items are being delivered to houses of Corona positive patients in cloth bags. The taluk administration has taken several steps to bring down the cases in rural areas, he added. H.D. Kote MLA Anil Chikkamadu and other Congress leaders were present.

Dead woman comes alive minutes before cremation

Pune, May 17- Though the country continues its fierce battle against covid-19, a bizarre incident from Baramati, in Pune district has shocked the relatives and residents of the city, when a 78-year-old Covid-positive woman from Mudhale village of Baramati taluk, who was thought to be dead regained her consciousness minutes before her cremation.

According to reports, the elderly woman had tested positive for COVID a couple of days back following which she was in home isolation. She later developed severe symptoms owing to her age and on May 10, her family took her to a hospital in an ambulance. As her family members struggled to secure a bed, the elderly lady fell unconscious inside the ambulance.

The ambulance staff reportedly confirmed the woman's death and the family members even informed their relatives about the incident. The 'deceased' was then taken back to the village, where the family started preparing for her cremation and last rites.

But minutes before she was consigned to flames, the woman opened her eyes and started crying. She was immediately shifted to the Silver Jubilee Hospital in Baramati for further treatment.

KSRTC ready to run 'oxygen on wheels'

buses in all districts, if sponsors come forward

Bengaluru, May 17 (SSV)- Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) is ready to operate 'oxygen on wheels' in all districts if Non- Governmental Organisations (NGO), health related organisations, voluntary organisations and hospitals come forward to sponsor oxygen equipment, said Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi, who is also the Transport Minister.

He said all the four Transport Corporations (KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC and NEKRTC) were ready to operate these specially designed 'Oxygen on wheels' buses in all districts under their jurisdiction, if the sponsors come forward to help. In each bus ten patients can take oxygen at a time. It will be more useful if the buses are stationed near major hospitals, till the patients get admission to the wards. Due to surge in Corona positive patients, providing oxygen to every patient has become challenge for the State Government. In such circumstance, this bus will come in handy to provide temporary relief to patients till doctors start treatment for them, he said.

File photo of the Oxybus

This has proved successful in Bengaluru City, he added. Savadi said if NGOs are ready to provide oxygen related equipment, the State Transport Corporation was ready to spare buses, drivers and other field staff. Instructions have been given to the authorities of all four Corporations to make necessary arrangements in this regard, he said.

Those who are interested can contact officers concerned to take forward this initiative. A Hyderabad-based voluntary service organisation, has come forward to start 'Oxygen on Wheels' buses in Karnataka and this matter has been discussed with Health and Medical Education Minister Dr. K. Sudhakar. If the agreement comes through, this will be a boon for those patients who are gasping for breath due to Corona infection, he added.

MLC suggests one-day exam for SSLC and II PU students

Mysuru, May 17(PM&DM)- As the second wave of COVID attack continues to cause untold havoc, JD(S) MLC **Marithibbegowda** has suggested the Government to conduct a one-day exam for SSLC and Second PU students on different dates, by setting Multi-choice question papers on the lines of CET (Common Entrance Test).

In a press release, Marithibbegowda, who represents South Teachers Constituency in the Legislative Council, said that the possible outbreak of the third wave of COVID-19 attack in the coming months is expected to target children and teenaged youths the more. Under such a situation, the Government should not conduct the exams on usual basis that extends over weeks. Also, evaluation of answer scripts will be a huge risk in these trying circumstances.

As such, the Government should seriously consider the safety, health and well-being of students, teachers and all other school staff and should think about conducting one-day exam for SSLC and Second PU students, he observed.

Giving tips on setting of question papers for the one-day exam, the MLC said that the authorities can set question papers containing Multiple-choice questions in full, say 40 marks for each subject for SSLC and multiple-choice questions for 50 marks (including practicals wherever applicable) for each subject for second PU.

Noting that the question papers can be modelled on the State's CET (Common Entrance Test for admission to Professional courses like Engineering, Architecture, Pharmacy, Agriculture etc.,) exam papers, he said that the exams can be conducted on a single day in two sessions, just like the CET

Explaining the advantages of this type of exam under these trying times, Marithibbegowda said that the Education Minister can hold virtual meetings with all stake holders, including students, teachers, college staff, educational experts, Legislators and Department officials, before deciding on the model of question papers for the one-day exam which he (Marithibbegowda) has advocated.

MMC&RI gets nod for recruitment of Doctors and Nursing staff

Mysuru, May 17(YDS&DM)- The MMC&RI (Mysore Medical College and Research Institute) has got nod from the Government for appointment of Doctors and Nursing staff for COVID treatment and care at Government-run Hospitals.

The Institution has got nod for recruitment of medical staff on contract basis for a three-month period subject to certain terms and conditions such as working in 12-hour shifts etc.,

Last month, the MMC&RI had submitted a proposal to the Government seeking to recruit a total of 150 medical staff including Doctors and Nurses on a temporary basis for three-month period .

Now the Government has given nod for the proposal and the recruitment notification will be issued once the Government passes an order to this effect.

By Girija Madhavan

LOOKING BACK...

A Chinese Memory Revived

Browsing through the internet, a photo from a bygone era caught my eye: Pandit Nehru with Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai, also called Chou Enlai [1898-1976]. His chiselled features and thick, black eyebrows, brought back memories of seeing him long ago, in person in Beijing [known as Peking earlier].

My husband, A. Madhavan and I were posted to the Indian Embassy, Beijing, from1968 to 1970 during the Cultural Revolution. Though the atmosphere was oppressive, with a hint of menace from the Red Guards, we Embassy-folk followed a regular routine of our own, working at the office and meeting other diplomats. The "Indian Embassy School" was set up by Mrs. Shaila Sathe [the wife of our Head of Mission, Ambassador Ram Sathe] in a wing of their Residence for our own Embassy children. The School operated till 2011. All of us wives in the mission helped out in whatever way we could. In time, Ugandan, Tanzanian, Iraqi, Rumanian and Yugoslav children joined the school; finally a little British boy. Excited to know I was an "Indian," he asked me, "Do you like to fight with tomahawks or bows and arrows?"

I taught English and nursery rhymes. Anca Dorobantu, a little Rumanian girl, was my star pupil. There were two Chinese staffers also: "Ayi", a cultivated, patrician-looking elderly woman who tidied the class rooms and helped with the smaller children, and Lao Li, the driver of the Embassy Microbus who ferried the teachers to the school. Ayi and Lao Li proudly wore Mao badges pinned to their boiler suits and attended gatherings to study "Mao Thought." But Lao Li, a big man, was more interested in food, especially pork dumplings with chilli sauce from a favourite eatery.

We followed the rules laid down for foreigners; no driving beyond city limits and no photographing what the Chinese felt was sensitive, like the small character posters pasted on walls. Pastel coloured sheets of yellow, pink or blue, they carried strident political messages in black calligraphy in vertical columns, a signature of the times. The Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven and other sites were closed, a ploy by Premier Zhou Enlai to protect monuments and artefacts from damage.

"Chairman Mao" was the name that resounded over loudspeakers all day long in music and rhetoric. I knew little of Zhou Enlai. I found that his family was genteel but poor. He was adopted by an uncle whose wife, Mme Chen, taught him Mandarin and writing poetry in classical style. Graduating from Nankai School in 1917, he spent two years in Japan. "The Poems of Jhou En-Lai" by Justin Theodra, contains an evocative poem he wrote on cherry blossoms and willows in Maruyama Park in Tokyo.

The Russian Revolution of 1917 impressed Zhou and he made his lifelong commitment to Communism when he was in France for a while. Back in China, he joined the Nationalists of Sun Yat-sen. He held office at the Whampoa Military Academy along with Chiang Kai Shek, who became an enemy after Zhou broke with the Nationalists. Though often in danger, Zhou Enlai escaped dramatically each time by changing residences and using disguises; as a librarian in Moscow or an antiquarian in Hong Kong.

On 16th October 1934, to extricate the Red Army from Nationalist attacks, Zhou Enlai and Mao organised the Long March, a strategic retreat from southern to northern China, covering 9,000 kilometres in 370 days. In a series of treks,35,000 men and 35 women marched, mainly at night, long lines of torches flickering over country tracks, a vivid image. The Long March remains an icon for the Chinese. The Chinese 5B rocket, the debris of which crashed into the Indian Ocean near the Maldives recently, was named "Long March."

The journey ended at Yan'an in Shaanxi province, in the Loess plateau of north China. Yan'an is famous for its cave houses or "Yaodangs," sustainable dwellings carved out of the hillside. Zhou Enlai and Mao Tsetung and their companions lived in these cave homes. Zhou married comrade Deng Yingchao in 1925. She is said to have decorated their cave windows with latticed rice paper screens. People still live in these caves, modernised now.

When the civil war ended, Chiang Kai Shek retreated to Taipei. Zhou Enlai became head of the Chinese Government, Mao Zedong the Chairman.

In Beijing, we could not meet officials or the local people. However, foreign diplomats were invited to formal receptions by the Chinese, gatherings held in an imposing hall. A large painting of Chairman Mao and many red flags formed the backdrop to a dais with a podium, guests seated in front of it at large dinner tables. A live orchestra played revolutionary music starting with the favourite "Dung Fang Hung" [The East Red]. When Zhou Enlai was the host, there was an exclusive fanfare played for him after which he would sweep on to the stage from the wings, clapping as a greeting to the assembled guests. At the end a toast was drunk. At the tables, a warmed wine called Shaoshing, fiery Mao Tai, a sweet red wine and champagne were served, orangeade for teetotallers. Once Zhou Enlai mingled among the guests to raise a toast. He came by our table and clinked glasses with us, a magnetic presence.

A banquet was served with starters like deep fried spinach, chicken, tofu, exotic mushrooms, crab rissoles and lobster claws succeeding one another until the highlight, Peking Duck, arrived. The China of Mao changed "The Four Olds," but culinary traditions were meticulously maintained!

Our stay in Beijing was a unique experience, witnessing the travails of a country embroiled in a nationwide upheaval with far-reaching consequences. Of our nine postings abroad this assignment remains in the memory as the most challenging. Zhou Enlai, China's "Grey Eminence," died of cancer in 1976. A multifaceted individual, a brilliant military strategist and negotiator, he was one of the great figures of our times■

Pandit Nehru with Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai.
[Pic. Courtesy: Internet]

Pupils of the Indian Embassy School, our son, Ananth Madhavan, 7-year-old and friend Musa from Uganda.

Teachers at the Indian Embassy School. Anca Dorobantu is in the middle, Girija to her left. Anca's mother is on the far left.

Zhou Enlai with Mao Zedong and others in a cave house in Yan'an.
[Pic. Courtesy: Internet]

Elephant stuck in slush rescued

Bandipur, May 17 (MTY, SOMG&KS)- A female elephant, which was stuck in slush at Moliyuru Range at Bandipur Tiger Reserve, has been rescued by the Forest Department staff. The staff had to use an earth excavator machine to remove the elephant from the slush.

As it had rained for 3-4 days in Bandipur, the mud had dampened and also slush had formed. The female elephant, aged about 20 years, which had come to quench its thirst, had slipped and fallen into the slush and was unable to get on its feet as it was slippery. The elephant was lying in the slush and suffering.

The Forest staff, who were on their regular beat yesterday, saw the elephant struggling to come out of the slush. The staff immediately informed their higher officials and brought an earth excavator machine to the spot. They somehow managed to remove the elephant from the slush.

As soon as the elephant got on to its feet, it turned towards the Forest staff, lifted its trunk, as a gesture to thank them and moved into the forest.

Bandipur Project Tiger Director S.R. Natesha, said that following recent rains, rain water is flowing into the water bodies which has created slush. The female elephant had got stuck in the slush after it had come to drink water and the staff, who noticed the elephant have rescued it. Hediyala Sub-Division Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) M.S. Ravikumar, Range Forest Officers (RFOs) Shashidhar, Sachin and Puttaraju and others took part in the rescue operation.

Miraculous escape for driver as tipper vehicle falls into canal

Bharathinagar, May 17 (Satish &KS) - The driver of a tipper vehicle had a miraculous escape after the vehicle he was driving fell into the cross canal of Hebbala Channaiah Canal near Gudigere on Saturday late night.

On Saturday late night, the tipper driver was driving the vehicle from Yaladahalli towards Gudigere, when he lost control of the vehicle, which rammed into an electric pole and fell into the canal.

The driver, who suffered minor injuries, was provided first-aid at K.M. Doddi Primary Health Centre.

Villagers and Gram Panchayat member Raghavendra said that there is a turning and there is not retaining wall to the canal. Also, the road is very narrow and such mishaps take place frequently.

They demanded the authorities concerned to take the matter seriously and widen the road, construct a retaining wall, for the benefit of all.

K.M. Doddi Police have registered a case.

Sowing of seeds launched at Bandipur

Seeds sowed in 38 hectare forest area

Mysuru, May 17 (MTY&KS) Sowing of seeds in Bandipur Forest area which was destroyed in forest fire and also at various places where Lantana weed was removed, was launched at the forest recently.

Following the forest fire two years ago, which had devastated large swathes of forest land at Bandipur, large quantity of trees and plants were destroyed in the fire. Also, lantana, a weed, which had grown in plenty, was removed at various Ranges in Bandipur a year back.

Since it is raining since a week in Bandipur and the weather is ideal for sowing seeds, the officials have launched the sowing of seeds in all 12 Ranges of Bandipur Forest.

In a total area of 38 hectare of Forest land, 190 kg seeds were sowed. 25 kg seeds were sowed in 5 hectares at Bandipur Range; 15 kg seeds in 3 hectares at Goapalaswamy Hill Range; 20 kg seeds sowed in 4 hectare each at Moolehole, Kundukere and Maddur Ranges; 10 kg seeds sowed in 2 hectare each at Omkar, Hediyala and Nugu Ranges and 15 kg seeds were sowed in 3 hectare each at A.M. Gudi, Gundre, N. Begur and Moliyur Ranges.

These seeds would grow up into tall trees in 10-15 years time thus increasing the green cover in the forest area, which would be very useful in conserving forest and wildlife.

Man arrested after marrying sisters

Kolar, May 17- A man, who had married sisters, has now been arrested by the Police after the wedding video went viral on social media.

The arrested man is Rakesh (name changed). The bride, who was supposed to marry Rakesh had told him that she would tie the knot only if he marries her speech impaired sister. Bowing to her request, Rakesh married both of them at a wedding ceremony organised at Kuduremala Temple of Kolar district on May 7.

Rakesh's troubles began when the Police knocked on the doors of his house at Vegamadagu village in Mulbagal taluk and arrested him after the video of him (Rakesh) marrying the two sisters went viral on social media recently. Rakesh was arrested as one of the sisters he had married was a minor.

Interestingly, the bride's father had also married in a similar way. He had also married two sisters at the same time on the same day and one of the sisters was suffering from speech impairment.

WORD OF THE DAY

Paean

Pronunciation: PEE-un.
Meaning: A joyous song or hymn of praise, tribute, thanksgiving, or triumph; a work that praises or honours its subject: encomium, tribute.
Origin: According to poet Homer, the Greek God Apollo sometimes took the guise of Paean, physician to the Gods. The earliest musical paeans were hymns of thanksgiving and praise that were dedicated to Apollo. They were sung at events ranging from boisterous festivals to public funerals, and they were the traditional marching songs of armies heading into battle. Over time, the word became generalised, and it is now used for any kind of tribute.
Example: "But Thornton Wilder's 'Our Town,' set amid the mountains there, is no folksy paean to simplicity. It's a boldly experimental play about the beauty of the everyday, and human beings' tragic propensity to look right past that." — Laura Collins-Hughes, The New York Times, 6 Jan. 2021.

THE ODD WORD

Pacificate

To give peace to.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Penny-pinching

Meaning: Parsimonious; mean with money.
Origin: 'Penny-pinching' is an old English expression and is first recorded in Thomas Dekker's play Shomakers Holiday, 1600:
Let wine be plentiful as beere, and beere as water, hang these penny pinching fathers. The phrase wasn't then much used for several centuries and re-emerged in the USA in the 20th century, and it is from there that it spread to become a commonplace part of the language.

QUOTE BOX

Blessed are the hearts that can bend; they shall never be broken.

—Albert Camus

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

yourballcourt

Answer: The ball is in your court.

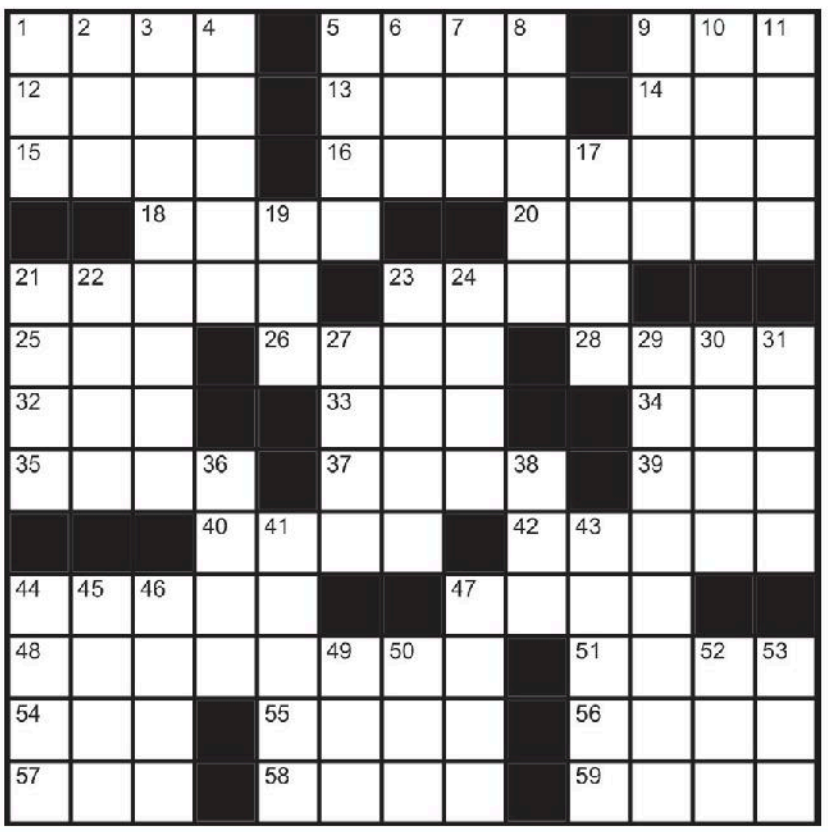
CROSS WORD

ACROSS:
1 Reminder note
5 Put a foot forward
9 Monetary unit of Bulgaria
12 Hit as a punishment
13 International Air Transport Assoc.
14 Actress Gardner
15 Lines or curves satisfying a given geometric condition
16 Client
18 Unwieldy ship
20 2006 FIFA World Cup champions
21 Economise on
23 Marsh hen or duck
25 Electronic Instrument Sys.
26 Examine
28 Greek peak
32 Tree or its hard wood
33 Turkish title
34 Large sea fish
35 It may be hatched
37 A word meaning 'half'
39 Concubine's room
40 Dry; barren
42 The Muslim faith
44 Preposition meaning about
47 Air in motion
48 Directly between two individuals (3,2,3)
51 Is not, slang
54 Gilbertian princess
55 Gave a signal to an actor?
56 Flying pest
57 A dandy
58 Sibilance
59 Certain NCO's

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

Y	U	R	I	■	T	A	L	C	■	P	A	N
O	N	E	R	■	E	T	A	L	■	R	H	O
D	I	N	E	■	E	U	R	O	P	E	A	N
A	X	O	L	O	T	L	■	S	A	C	■	■
■	■	■	A	T	H	■	R	E	T	I	N	A
F	R	A	N	C	■	L	I	D	■	O	A	S
L	A	U	D	■	H	O	P	■	P	U	S	H
A	I	D	■	A	U	G	■	F	I	S	H	Y
G	L	A	N	C	E	■	E	L	L	■	■	■
■	■	C	U	E	■	P	T	O	L	E	M	Y
F	A	I	N	T	I	S	H	■	A	G	I	O
I	S	T	■	I	P	S	O	■	G	O	E	R
T	H	Y	■	C	O	T	S	■	E	S	N	E

DOWN
1 Master of Science in Linguistics, deg.
2 "Rockaria!" band
3 Exaggerated masculinity
4 Poppy product
5 Ailing or unwell?
6 Greek letter
7 Aliens?
8 Paved courtyard
9 Tibetan monk
10 Daredevil Knievel
11 Change or diverge
17 Palindromic German
19 Long playing records, in short
21 Leak through
22 Slay
23 Locked up
24 Kerala festival
27 Arabian judge
29 Rebuking
30 Pop drink
31 Original sinner
36 Mexican food
38 Latin trio
41 Farm
43 Hitches
44 Hairstyle
45 Our country, as a prefix
46 As you sow, so shall you ____?
47 Marries
49 Yes for the Parisian
50 Not elsewhere specified, abbr.
52 Nathan's petname?
53 Text to speech, acronym



SUDOKO

		6	1					
4							6	
		2		6		8		7
			7					8
3	4		5		2		1	6
8					9			
5		9		3		1		
	7							4
					1	3		

Answer to previous puzzle

4	3	7	2	1	5	8	9	6
5	6	1	3	6	9	2	4	7
2	9	6	7	8	4	3	5	1
6	2	9	4	7	3	1	8	5
1	7	5	8	2	6	4	3	9
8	4	3	5	9	1	6	7	2
7	5	4	6	3	2	9	1	8
9	6	8	1	4	7	5	2	3
3	1	2	9	5	8	7	6	4

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

NFHP SEV CHZ ZE ZFH HPW EL SEVD DEKH,

ZQH G XPEZ GPW FGPC EP.

TODAY'S CLUE: V EQUALS U

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: Any war that requires the suspension of reason as a necessity for support is a bad war.

POSITIVITY UNLIMITED

On the 3rd day of the #PositivityUnlimited lecture series organised by COVID Response Team (CRT), Delhi on May 13, Jagadguru Vijayendra Saraswati of Kanchi Kamkoti Peetham and renowned artiste Padma Vibhusan Dr. Sonal Mansingh shared their thoughts.

'God's grace, good practices and resolve will help us defeat pandemic'

Vijayendra Saraswati

The world is in the grasp of the pandemic. India was able to defeat the first wave due to the efforts of the Government and people. The 2nd wave has hit us again and has increased rapidly. Recalling Sankat Mochan Hanuman at this time helps to gain confidence. We certainly have to work hard to overcome the crisis with God's grace. We have to follow the guidelines and adopt best practices. We also have to use both traditional Ayurvedic remedies and western medicines to overcome the pandemic.

There is a major role for self-confidence and mental strength in fighting this pandemic. We can recall that Hanuman went to Mata Sita and instilled confidence in her by narrating the history and glory of Suryavamsha. He infused self-confidence in her and she did not lose confidence until Bhagwan Ram won over Ravan and rescued her. Similarly, we need to have confidence both at a personal level and in the society too.

Just as Krishna said to Arjuna in Bhagavad Gita,

klaibyam ma sma gamah: partha naitat tvayy upapadyate I
ksudram hrdaya-daurbalyam tyaktvottistha parantapa II

urging him to get up and fight, as losing confidence is not in his nature, we in India today must be confident that we will win over the pandemic. For this we all have to work with the Government, cooperate with each other and everyone working for the cause. Many individuals, Governments and organisations are working towards this. Many from abroad are also aiding India in fighting the pandemic.

Our Dharmic ethos teach us,

Om Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah
Sarve Santu Niraamayaah |
Sarve Bhadraanni Pashyantu
Maa Kashcid-Duh-
kha-Bhaag-Bhavet |
Om Shaantih Shaantih
Shaantih ||

Likewise, we do not wish for the welfare of our own selves but for the welfare of everyone in the world. We should work towards realising it. We must work to establish peace in the entire world too.

Bharat has won over many difficulties in the past and similarly will win over this battle against COVID too with the sense of duty towards the nation, God's grace, good practices and resolve.

'Gratitude, constructive thoughts will help us emerge out of negativity'

We have not been sitting silently in the wake of this pandemic. Right from the President, PM to the last man we are all working to fight it. We had heard about the battles of Mahabharat, and Ramayana and it looks like we are in one such battle ourselves.

Dr. Sonal Mansingh

When we and people close to us are infected, we are bound to get affected and have negative thoughts. When I was infected, I felt like I was reliving the days of my accident in 1970s when my whole body was plastered. When negative thoughts afflicted me, it was dance and art that saved me. Similarly, we all have hidden talents in us with whose help we can emerge out of the negative thoughts. I have defeated the disease alone with the grace of Ma Jagadamba. We have heard many verses from the Gita and Upanishads and these noble thoughts have to come to good use in these times.

Positivity, gratitude, prayer, constructive thoughts, control over mind will help us emerge out of negativity. It is art that taught me the way to live. We all have light within us but we only have to recognise it. We have to remain mentally strong. I am sure that we will emerge bright and strong.

[Report : Prashanth Vaidyaraj]

Rotary COVID Food Donation

STANDING FROM LEFT: ***Rtn. Praveen, Rtn. Aiyanna, Rtn. Jaykumar, Rtn. Veeresh and Dr. Singh.***

Mysuru, May 17 - Rotary Mysore Midtown, Rotary Panchasheel, Rotary Central, Rotary Mysore, Rotary Ivory City, Rotary East, Rotary South-East, Rotary Brindavan, Rotary Ambari and Rotary Srigandha Clubs have together started a noble project of feeding the poor and downtrodden who are identified and placed at Nanjaraja Bahadur Choultry on Vinoba Road and CITB Choultry in Siddarthanagar.

This project is being undertaken in association with Mysuru City Corporation (MCC).

Speaking to *SOM,* Rtn. A.N. Aiyanna, President, Rotary Midtown, said "Feeding 500 people in a day consistently needs the will and concern towards society. It was a big challenge for the Clubs to contribute at this period as the Rotary year ends in June for all and mobilising resources is a herculean task. With the available resources, we started to feed the needy from last Monday and it's now being done at both the shelter homes."

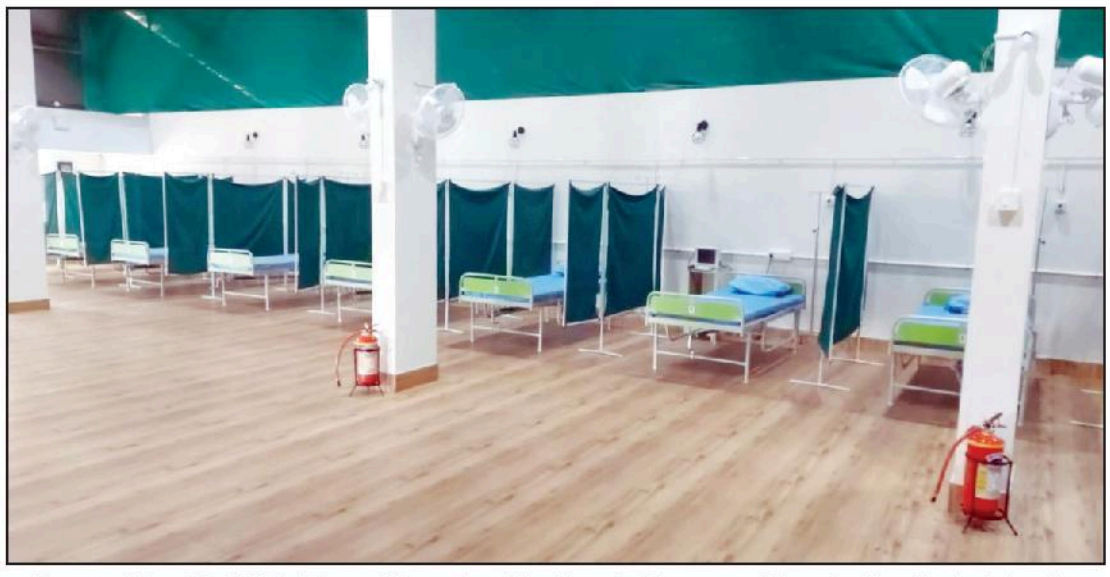
Rotary also supports COVID Warriors (team of doctors and staff) at Trauma Care Centre in PKTB premises and the warriors at DC Office War Room, he said.

"Different breakfast is served at both the places and donors in the Clubs have come forward to give boiled eggs and water bottles at both these shelters," he added.

"MCC Commissioner Shilpa Nag and staff are in touch with us and coordinating on daily basis. We also have the request to provide breakfast to Pourakarmikas and are working on providing food to them also," Rtn. Aiyanna said adding that Rotary, as part of its service in this crisis hour, goes all out to reach the community in need.

Rotary Mysore Midtown has also extended support to People For Animals (PFA) by providing 20 food bags for cats and dogs. It also distributed sanitisers and masks to the staff members, added the Rotarian.

Critical equipment, free food donated to COVD facility in Kodagu



Mysuru, May 17 (BCT)- The 30-bed dedicated free COVID healthcare centre established by Lopamudra Medical Centre (LMC) and Karuna Trust at Gonikoppal in South Kodagu has been receiving donations in kind from donors and philanthropists.

Mysuru-based Skanray Technologies has donated critical high-tech equipment to treat virus-infected patients at all the 30 beds of the hospital. Managing Director of Skanray Vishwaprasad Alva got to know about the noble cause and has voluntarily come forward with donations and has been a pillar of strength for this zero-billing facility, said Dr. Mukkatira Amrit Nanaiah, Head of Lopamudra Medical Centre.

The Puthari Farmer Producer Company Limited has come forward to offer free food to the patients till their stay in the hospital. The food will include three meals a day and snacks. "They have agreed to provide all the materials required to supply healthy and nutritious meals to patients and have also offered to provide their vehicle for our use till the pandemic lasts. These contributions made by the company President Subaiah, Board of Directors, CEO and team are worth emulating," Dr. Amrit Nanaiah added.

2DG, DRDO's first batch of oral anti-COVID drug launched

New Delhi, May 17 (UNI) - Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan this morning released the first batch of anti-COVID drug 2DG developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The first and second batch (of anti-COVID drug 2-DG) will be used in a limited manner. It will be used in All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Armed Forces Hospitals, DRDO Hospitals and any other need which arises. From June onwards it will be made available to all Hospitals, said Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy, Chairman, DRDO.

"With the support of DRDO and under the leadership of Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, this (anti-COVID drug 2DG) may be our first indigenous research-based outcome to fight against COVID-19. It will reduce recovery time and oxygen dependency," Dr. Harsh Vardhan said.

"Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the DRDO has played an important role in the fight against COVID-19. Not just for India but I hope it serves in the fight against COVID, globally in the coming days. I thank and congratulate DRDO and its scientists," he added.

Rajnath Singh said under the leadership of the PM, the issue of oxygen production has been resolved with collective effort. "We will not be at ease and will not be tired but will keep fighting and will win against COVID-19. Now medicine issue is also not there much," Singh added.

This comes after the Drugs Controller General of India approved the oral drug for emergency use as an adjunct therapy in moderate to severe Coronavirus patients. Earlier on May 8, the Defence Ministry said the clinical trials of the drug, 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG), showed that it helps in a faster recovery of hospitalised patients and reduces supplemental oxygen dependence.

"In the on-going second COVID-19 wave, a large number of patients are facing severe oxygen dependency and need hospitalisation. The drug is expected to save precious lives due to the mechanism of its operation in the infected cells. This also reduces the hospital stay of COVID-19 patients," the Ministry had said.

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan releasing the anti-COVID drug 2DG this morning.

Therapeutic application

The anti-COVID therapeutic application of the drug has been developed by the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS) along with Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (DRL) in Hyderabad. The Ministry said the drug comes in a powder form in a sachet and is taken orally by dissolving it in water. It further said that patients treated with 2-DG showed a faster symptomatic cure than the standard of care on various endpoints.

The approval of the drug has come at a time when the nation is struggling with a deadly second wave of the Coronavirus disease. Higher proportion of patients treated with 2-DG showed RT-PCR negative conversion in COVID patients.

Pursuing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for preparedness against the pandemic, DRDO took the initiative of developing anti-COVID therapeutic application of 2-DG. In April 2020, during the first wave of the pandemic, INMAS-DRDO scientists conducted laboratory experiments with the help of Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad and found that this molecule works effectively against SARS-CoV-2 virus and inhibits the viral growth.

Based on these results, Drugs Controller General of India's (DCGI) Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) permitted Phase-II clinical trial of 2-DG in COVID-19 patients in May 2020.

WATER LEVEL

KABINI DAM

Maximum	:	2,284.00	feet
Today	:	2261.68	feet
Inflow	:	12,981	cusecs
Outflow	:	725	cusecs

HARANGI DAM

Maximum	:	2,859.00	feet
Today	:	2,821.48	feet
Inflow	:	622	cusecs
Outflow	:	80	cusecs

SAD DEMISE

With profound Grief,
We inform the sad demise of our beloved

Born : 10.04.1948

Died : 16.05.2021

Dr. N. CHANDRASHEKAR M.D.

Gastroenterologist

Retd., Superintendent of Bowring & Lady Curzon Hospital, Bangalore,
Aluminus of MMC, Mysore & Master's at KIMS, Hubli

: Deeply mourned by :

Wife : Smt. N.R. Bhagyalakshmi, Son : C. Supreeth, Daughter : Smitha,
Son-in-law : Pradeep & Grand Children Mob : 9845715500 / 9980039787

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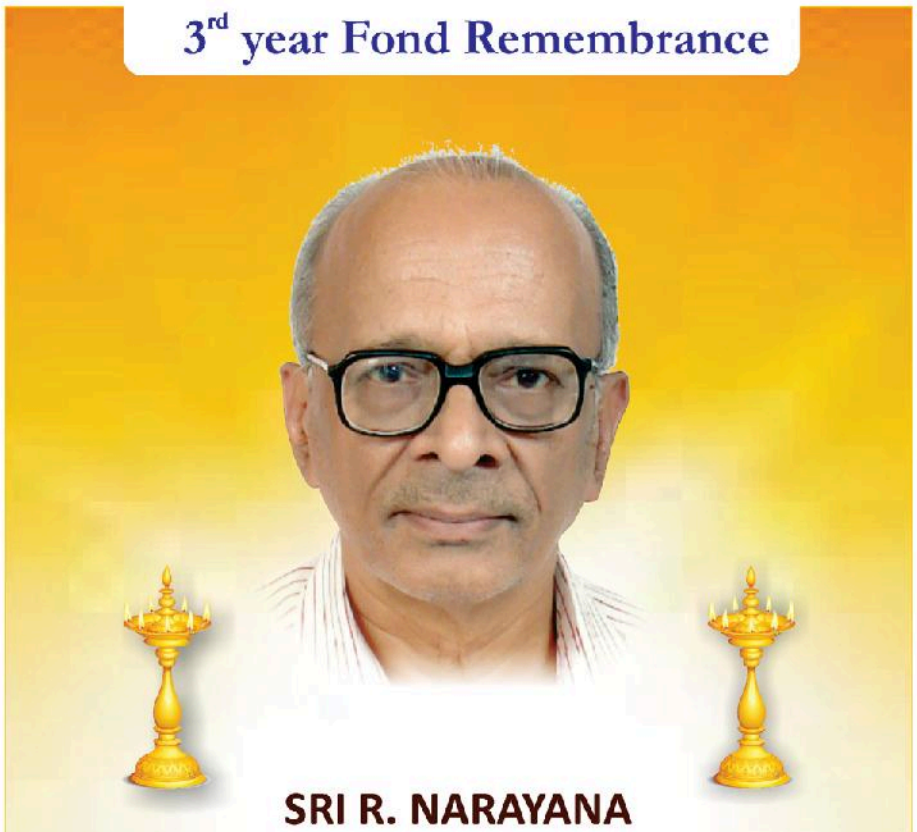
3rd year Fond Remembrance



SRI R. NARAYANA

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17.5.1937 - 17.5.2018

Those we love don't go away,
they walk beside us everyday.
Unseen, unheard, but always near;
still loved, still missed and very dear
"OM Shanthi"

—Friends & wellwishers

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